

Leavenworth man sentenced on racketeering charge

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Sept. 6, 2024

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CASE NUMBER: LV-2023-CR-300119

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – A 23-year-old convicted felon has been sentenced to more than 15 years in prison on a charge related to racketeering.

On June 3, 2024, a Leavenworth County jury found Jack H. Thomas guilty of **Violation of the Kansas Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO)** and not guilty of **First-Degree Murder** in the 2022 death of Rylee Styler.

Thomas was sentenced to 190 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections on Friday, Sept. 6, 2024. Friday's sentence will run consecutively to any other sentences Thomas is already serving.

Kansas RICO is a state law similar to the federal statute that punishes organized crime. "Racketeering activity" is defined as committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, or soliciting, coercing, or intimidating another person to commit a certain felony and misdemeanor crimes enumerated in the act.

According to court documents, between June 1, 2021, and June 1, 2022, Thomas was engaged in a criminal enterprise that distributed controlled substances.

Styler's body was found on February 14, 2022, after emergency crews were dispatched to a vehicle fire in the area of Santa Fe Trail and 195th in Leavenworth County. Once the flames were extinguished, Riley's body was discovered in the trunk of the burned vehicle. While investigating the death of Styler, detectives later discovered persons of interest in the death of Styler were possibly involved in an illegal enterprise dealing illegal drugs in Leavenworth.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "This is one of the first RICO convictions in the state and was the first in Leavenworth County. This was a very sad and serious case. We appreciate the work law enforcement put into this matter to ensure a conviction."